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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 15, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Slade Gorton
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gorton:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Steven W. Hopkins, Jail Superintendent, Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department, and Chase Riveland, Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Washington, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost. Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implementation of BPP along with other options.

The Further Notice also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

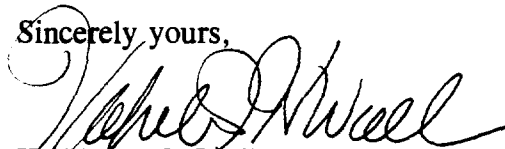
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The Honorable Slade Gorton
Page 2

Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen M.H. Wallman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent.

Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures

SLADE GORTON
WASHINGTON

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Congressional Affairs Office
Federal Communications Commission
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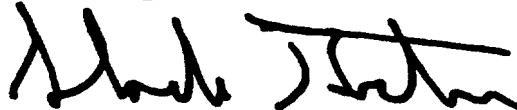
Dear Congressional Liaison:

I have been asked by a constituent to assist in the matter described in the enclosed correspondence. I am referring this inquiry to you for your consideration.

Please provide the necessary information **in duplicate and the enclosures**. Your correspondence should be sent to my Washington, DC office.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Slade Gorton
United States Senator

SG/cms
Enclosure



Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department

DENNIS MORRISETTE, Sheriff

1994

8-34

August 2, 1994

Back to FCC

Telephone blocking / T6C

~~18490~~ ~~18498~~

United States Senator Slade Gorton
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gorton:

It has been brought to my attention that there is a pending regulatory issue referred to as "Billed Party Preference" that, if enacted, will adversely impact the operations of the Grays Harbor County Jail and the majority of other corrections facilities nationwide. This regulatory would:

Remove the phone number blocking capability of the current system, thereby eliminating any protection from harassment phone calls originated from the jail to victims, attorneys, judges and law enforcement personnel.

Remove the capability to automatically control call duration.

Increase the possibility of telephone fraud.

Drastically reduce or eliminate the revenue realized by the jails from the inmate phone system.

In view of the above, I encourage you to oppose the Billed Party Preference regulatory.

Sincerely,

DENNIS MORRISETTE, Sheriff
Grays Harbor County

By:


STEVEN W. HOPKINS,

Jail Superintendent

SWH:jm